

Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: COMMENTS OF SPANISH NEGOTIATOR

REF MADRID 1476

1. IN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNSELOR, MARQUES DE PERINAT, NUMBER TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON SPANISH NEOTIATING TEAM, COMMENTED THAT MARCH 10 NEGOTIATING SESSION IN WASHINGTON WILL BE EASILY MOST SIGNIFICANT SO FAR, AS SPANISH NEGOTIATORS INTEND TO DEAL NOW IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CONCESSIONS. SPAIN IS FULLY COMMITTED TO CONTINUING DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH US, BUT THIS COOPERATION COULD BE REDUCED TO MINIMAL LEVELS IF US IS NOT FORTHCOMING. HE EXPLAINED THAT US SHOULD NOT GET MISIMPRESSION THAT ONLY ONE OR TWO BASES, SUCH AS TORREJON, ARE IN THE BALANCE. FOR IF US TOTALLY UNRESPONSIVE TO SPANISH NEEDS, SPAIN COULD IT NECESSARY, DEPENDING ON DEGREE OF US UNRESPONSIVENESS, ULTIMATELY TO ELIMINATE ALL US PERMANENT US FACILITES IN SPAIN. THEREAFTER DEFENSE COOPERATION WOULD CONTINUE IN THE FORM OF OVER-FLIGHT RIGHTS FOR US AIRCRAFT, TEMPORARY USE OF SPANISH AIRFIELDS IN TRANSIT SITUATIONS, AND CONTINUED ACCESS OF US NAVAL UNITS TO SPANISH PORTS. HE NOTED THAT US SPOKESMEN HAVE COMMENTED IN PAST THAT THESE CONCESSIONS ALONE ARE QUITE VALUABLE US FORCES. HE ADDED THAT SUCH A SCALING-DOWN OF US PRESENCE IS CONTINGENCY OPTION

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RATHER THAN FIRM INTENTION.

2. WHATEVER OUTCOME OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, US SHOULD ASSUME THAT STRATEGIC TANKER WING WILL HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM TORREJON. PERINAT COMMENTED THAT US COULD HAVE MADE A BETTER DEAL FOR ITSELF AND BE IN BETTER POSITION NOW IF IT HAD AGREED TO ORIGINAL SPANISH REQUEST IN OCT 1973 FOR REMOVAL OF TANKERS FROM TORREJON. SINCE US RESPONDED BY DEFERRING ISSUE UNTIL CURRENT TALKS, ITS POSITION ON RETENTION OF ALL OF TORREJON HAS BEEN WEAKENED.

3. COMMENTING ON PERSONALITIES ON SPANISH NEGOTIATING TEAM, PERINAT DESCRIBED CHIEF MILITARY NEGOTIATOR GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO AS "BRILLIANT" AND PROBABLY MOST INTELLIGENT GENERAL IN SPANISH ARMED FORCES. HE NOTED THAT AIR FORCE GEN CARLOS DOLZ, WHILE A PERSUASIVE TALKER WHO USUALLY MAKES A GOOD IMPRESSION ON FOREIGNERS, WAS PROBABLY THE WEAKEST OF THE MILITARY NEGOTIATORS IN INTELLECT.

4. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, PERINAT ALLUDED TO ARTICLE IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF LIBERAL MAGAZINE, "CAMBIO 16" ENTITLED "YANKEE, GO HOME". ARTICLE HE SAID WAS WORTH READING, THOUGH HE ASSURED THAT IT WAS NOT FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANT AND DID NOT REPRESENT GOS THINKING, SIGNIFICANT POINTS OF ARTICLE ARE:

A. WHILE QUESTION OF TORREJON AND MORON MAY NOT HAVE BEEN BROACHED IN FORMAL WAY IN TALKS, PRIVATE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA AND AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY. "MERE INSINUATION OF THEME WOULD HAVE SUFFICED TO GET THE POINT ACROSS."

B. ACOCO ARTICLE MADE IT APPARENT THAT RUMOR WAS EFFORT TO PREPARE SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION.

C. WITH DISMANTLING OF BASES, SPANISH GOVT WITHOUT REMOVING ITSELF FROM US SECURITY UNBRELLA, WOULD PROVIDE SATISFACTION TO CRITICS OF US PRESENCE IN SPAIN.

D. FROM WASHINGTON'S POINT OF VIEW, RETENTION OF "VITAL BASE OF ROTA" AND ZARAGOZA WOULD BE SUFFICIENT IN NEW MILITARY CONTEXT OF CAUTIOUS (US) WITHDRAWAL FROM EUROPE.

E. SOME ARGUE SPAIN'S POSITION IS WEAK BECASUE
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IT CANNOT DO WITHOUT US SUPPORT.

F. MEANWHILE, US WILL ATTEMPT TO PROLONG TALKS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, UTILIZING IF NECESSARY ADDITIONAL YEAR FOR WITHDRAWAL PROVIDED IN AGREEMENT LOOKING TOWARD EVENTUAL POLITICAL CHANGE IN MADRID.

5. COMMENT: WHILE POSSIBILITIES PRESENTED BY PERINAT IN THIS CONVERSATION MAY BE EXAGGERATED FOR NEGOTIATING

EFFECT, HIS STATEMENTS TOGETHER WITH STATEMENTS BY OTHER MEMBERS OF
NEGOTIATING TEAM, INDICATE DIRECTION OF SPANISH THINKING.
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